



**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re the Application of

Takamitsu ASANUMA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3748

Application No.: 09/904,875

Examiner: T. Nguyen

Filed: July 16, 2001

Docket No.: 110108

For: A DEVICE FOR PURIFYING THE EXHAUST GAS OF AN INTERNAL  
COMBUSTION ENGINE

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the January 24, 2005, Office Action, Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection in view of the following remarks.

**REMARKS**

Claims 2-4 are pending herein. By the Office Action, claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The Office Action rejects claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dou in view of Hirota. The Office Action argues that Dou discloses all of the elements of the claimed invention, except the limitation that the particulate filter and the NO<sub>x</sub> absorber can be combined into one single housing, but that such a teaching is provided by Hirota. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

A. The Cited References Do Not Teach or Suggest the Claimed Invention

Independent claim 2 is directed to a device for purifying the exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine comprising: a particulate filter arranged in the exhaust system, which carries a catalyst for absorbing and reducing NO<sub>x</sub>, said catalyst absorbing NO<sub>x</sub> when the air-